



## **Sir Philip Oakley Fysh (1835-1919)**

**Member for Tasmania 1901-1903**

**Member for Denison (Tasmania) 1903-1910**

**P**hilip Oakley Fysh was born in Highbury, England, migrated to Melbourne, Victoria, in August 1859 and settled in Tasmania later that year. Fysh, a merchant, had a distinguished career as a colonial parliamentarian. As Premier of Tasmania 1877-78 and 1887-92 he was instrumental in introducing a raft of social and political reforms. A committed federationist, Fysh represented Tasmania at the federal conventions of 1891 and 1897-98, and was a member of the Federal Council of Australasia 1895-97. As Tasmania's Agent-General in London 1899-1901, he joined Barton, Deakin and Kingston in securing British approval for the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Bill. Fysh was knighted in 1896.

At the first federal election in March 1901 Fysh was elected as a Freetrader to the House of Representatives for Tasmania and was appointed minister without portfolio in the Barton Ministry. He was described as a "fairtrader rather than a freetrader". In 1903 he was elected to represent the electoral division of Denison and was appointed Postmaster-General. Fysh retired from politics in 1910.

The state of Tasmania did not divide into electoral divisions for the purposes of the first federal election. Tasmania, as a whole, was also represented in the first House of Representatives by:

Donald Norman Cameron

King O'Malley

Sir Edward Nicholas Coventry Braddon

Frederick William Piesse